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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

SUBJECT Reductions in USIA Personnel and Stocks;
Acceleration of Production in Avtovelo and
Podyonnik Plants

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1. The attitudes and actions of Soviet officials of USIA indicate that no orders have been received from Moscow regarding a USIA transitional period or a program for the liquidation of Soviet property. Certain trends of the past several months persist. A systematic reduction in USIA administrative personnel is being carried out. The most recently hired employees are being released first because this is a more economical procedure under the provisions of Austrian law. The majority of the dismissals are of non-Communists. The apparent policy is to retain only trusted employees for the transition period. USIA is not concerned with the reaction of the Austrian trade unions, since several shop stewards have been dismissed.
2. USIA-controlled plants where Soviet interest is emphasized are being urged to accelerate production. Several managers of Avtovelo* and Podyomnik* plants have been informed that large Soviet orders will continue for an additional five to six months. Soviet commercial representation is gathering detailed prospectuses for all firms for the purpose of placing future orders.
3. USIA continues its efforts to convert surplus stocks into cash, and the Central Commercial Bureau is now trying to speed up the sale of scrap stocks.** Indications exist that the sales offices of USIA administrations will be the first to go when dissolution of USIA begins.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment: Avtovelo is the Soviet designation for the Automotive and Fine Mechanics Department of USIA; Rodyomnik is the Heavy Industry Section of USIA.

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25X1A ** Comment: See [REDACTED] regarding the commission of the Construction and Building Materials Administration which is inspecting equipment and materials to determine what is to be retained or scrapped, and the proposed sale of scrap to Frigaliment for dollars.

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